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THE GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER IN HAMPTON CREEK COVE STATE NATURAL AREA

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Breeding Bird Survey routes indicate a decline of the Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) in eastern North America from 1966-1989 (Droege and Sauer 1990; Sauer and Droege 1992). Possible reasons for the decline include loss of habitat and hybridization with the Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*). Nest parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) may also contribute to the decline (Confer 1992). Golden-winged Warblers are listed as "Deemed in Need of Management" by the state of Tennessee (McCoy et al. 2001). Their breeding range in Tennessee is restricted to the southern Blue Ridge and Cumberland Mountains. Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area (HCC) in Carter County supports a small population of Golden-winged Warblers and could be managed to maintain the early successional habitats these birds need.

The purpose of this article is to outline what is known about the Golden-winged Warbler in HCC, to document nesting, and to provide information on population size. It is hoped that this thesis may be useful to land managers, students, and birders in their future explorations in the Cove.

HAMPTON CREEK COVE STATE NATURAL AREA

Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area is a 280 ha tract located in the Southern Blue Ridge physiographic province in Carter County, Tennessee near Roan Mountain State Park. Approximately 80 ha are in pasture/old field habitat, approximately 10 ha are in hay production, and approximately 200 ha are in mature forest. Elevation at HCC ranges from 760-1200 m. The two most common forest types are mixed mesophytic and northern hardwood forests. The upper boundary is contiguous with the Cherokee National Forest. The Appalachian Trail crosses just above the natural area on U.S. Forest Service land. Left Prong of Hampton Creek originates in

the national forest and is a prominent feature bisecting the length of the natural area.

Management authority at HCC is a shared responsibility of the State of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Natural Heritage, Natural Areas Program and the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC). A major goal of the State and SAHC is to "retain substantial early successional nesting habitat for the Golden-winged Warbler and other avian species...". A major objective of the SAHC is to research nesting requirements of the Golden-winged Warbler and to utilize this information to plan an early successional management strategy that retains optimum nesting habitat for the Golden-winged Warbler. Current management includes controlled grazing of cattle in early successional habitats. A Golden-winged Warbler management plan was written in 2001 (Trently 2001). This plan outlines the management options for Golden-winged Warblers in the Cove.

METHODS

I worked as the seasonal ecologist for the SAHC during the summers of 2000 through 2002. During this time, I conducted nest searches in May and June by observing adult behavior, narrowing down the approximate nest location, and then searching in the approximate location for a nest. Once a nest was located, I took data on the nest contents, its location, and general information on habitat.

I conducted surveys to document locations of singing male Golden-winged Warblers on May 11, 18 and 29 in 2001 and on May 31, June 1, 2 and 3 in 2002. Surveys were started before 0700 and ended before 1000 on all dates except 31 May when surveys were continued until 1330. I conducted these surveys by going to suitable habitat and observing for five minutes. If no birds were observed within a five-minute period, I played a tape of the Golden-winged Warbler type I and type II songs to ensure that I was not missing any individuals. Concurrently and independently, three undergraduate students from East Tennessee State University surveyed HCC for Golden-winged Warbler territories in 2001 (Miller et al. 2001).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

NESTS

On June 11, 2000 I located a Golden-winged Warbler nest woven to one blackberry (*Rubus* sp.) and eight wingstem (*Verbesina* sp.) stems about 9 cm off the ground. The elevation at the nest was approximately 1200 m. It contained four Golden-winged Warbler eggs and one Brown-headed Cowbird egg.

During the summer of 2001, I located three Golden-winged Warbler nests in HCC. On 11 May, I located a nest at an elevation of 960 m that contained one Golden-winged Warbler egg. The nest was placed 1.7 m in a willow (*Salix* sp) tree. This is noteworthy since a Golden-winged Warbler's nest is commonly placed on the ground or only slightly above the ground. On 18 May, I observed a Golden-winged Warbler building a nest behind the abandoned Birchfield home at the far end of the

access road running through the property. The nest was about 5 cm off the ground in some blackberry stems at an elevation of approximately 1200 m. This same nest was checked on 29 May to find three Golden-winged Warbler eggs and again on 18 June to find it empty. A third nest was found empty on 18 June. It was located on the ground at the edge of a hay field and a dense strip of shrubs and trees.

No nests were located in 2002.

The nest I found with a cowbird egg on June 11, 2000 represents the first cowbird-parasitized Golden-winged Warbler nest reported for Tennessee. The cowbird is frequently observed in HCC in early to mid-May when most birds begin nesting. The finding of the parasitized nest prompts the questions: What percentage of Golden-winged Warbler nests are parasitized by the cowbird and what effect does this have on the Golden-winged Warbler population? This question should be addressed through future research.

TERRITORIES

Twenty-two singing male Golden-winged Warblers and one singing Brewster's Warbler (*Vermivora pinus* X *V. chrysoptera*) were located in 2001, and 20 singing male Golden-winged Warblers and one singing Brewster's Warbler were located in 2002. Students from East Tennessee State University located at least one territory that I did not account for in 2001 (Miller et al. 2001). Thus the total territories for Golden-winged Warblers in 2001 was 23.

I located additional Golden-winged Warbler territories immediately outside of the HCC area in 2001 for a total of 45 known Golden-winged Warbler territories within a three km radius of the center of HCC (Table 1).

Table 1. Number and location of Golden-winged Warbler territories observed on or near Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area (HCC) in 2001.

Location	Territories
HCC	23
Sugar Hollow Road, TN	16
Heaton Creek Road, TN	1
Teaberry Road, TN	1
Roaring Creek, NC	4
Total	45

Based on the available habitat, this is probably an underestimate of the total population size since some private land was not surveyed in 2001. An attempt should be made to survey these areas in the future. Assuming high quality habitat may support one Golden-winged Warbler territory per acre, I estimated that an additional 30 territories might have been present on surrounding private land, bringing the

number of territories within three km of (and including) HCC in 2001 to 75. Territories in smaller unmanaged areas will probably be lost in the next ten years. This may have been the case with the historically occupied sites at the Miller Homestead and Picnic Shelter #1 within Roan Mountain State Park. These smaller isolated sites may have been too small to sustain a healthy population. For a sustainable population, at least 25 acres of ideal Golden-winged Warbler habitat should be provided (Confer 1992). This may not be possible for some isolated patches.

Hybridization with Blue-winged Warblers has been hypothesized as one cause of decline in Golden-winged Warbler populations. The two species are known to hybridize and produce several recognizable hybrid types. Former East Tennessee State University graduate student, Melinda Wilson first studied the Golden-winged Warbler in HCC in 1996 (Wilson 1998). She observed Brewster's Warblers in HCC from 1996 to 1998. What made these observations most interesting is the fact that the Golden-winged Warbler and the Blue-winged Warbler are thought to be allopatric (they do not occur together) in the region. A Brewster's was also present from 2000 to 2002. On 11 May 2001, I observed a Brewster's Warbler singing a Golden-winged Warbler song in HCC. The following year on May 31, I observed a Brewster's Warblers singing in the same location as the 2001 bird. I determined the Brewster's observed in 2001 and 2002 to be backcross adult males.

Future surveys of HCC should be conducted to establish population trends within the Cove. The current management prescription calls for continued cattle grazing to maintain early to mid successional habitat. Low to moderate intensity cattle grazing may provide sustainable Golden-winged Warbler habitat, but overgrazing leads to habitat conditions unsuitable for Golden-wings. Many places where cattle do not graze are succeeding to late successional forests. One future scenario that must be considered is the loss of the cattle herds. Currently, a caretaker maintains the cattle herds and conducts routine maintenance activities in the natural area. Without a caretaker, the herds may have to be removed. A contingency plan based upon this scenario must be written.

A Golden-winged Warbler management plan has been written for HCC (Trently 2001). It addresses sustainability and future goals for the Golden-winged Warbler in HCC. One goal suggests active management to increase Golden-winged Warbler population to over 40 territories within HCC. Management may mean prescribed burns, bushhogging, herbicide use, and other such techniques meant to reverse succession. Until more active management is provided to increase the population, Golden-winged Warblers should be monitored for population size trends and for hybrid activity. Please see Trently (2001) for more detailed information on management goals and prescriptions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Natural Heritage Division for their continued support of the natural and cultural beauty of Hampton Creek Cove. I would also like to thank Melinda Welton for hiring me onto the

Golden-winged Warbler Atlas Project for Tennessee. Finally, I would like to acknowledge Nathan Klaus, Nell Moore, and Chris Welsh for their help with the writing of this document.

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BOOK REVIEW

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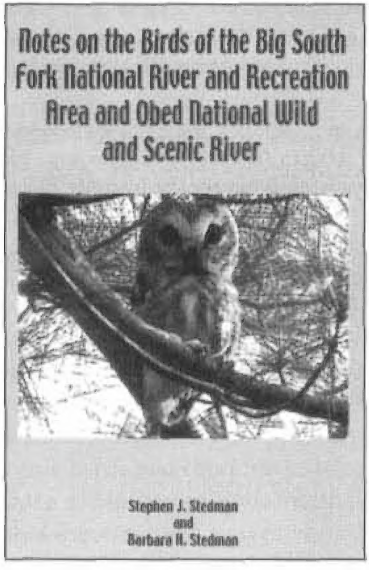
NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF THE BIG SOUTH FORK NATIONAL RIVER AND RECREATION AREA AND OBED NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER. Stephen J. Stedman and Barbara H. Stedman. Tennessee Technology University Printing Services, Cookeville, TN, 2002. 146 pp., 10 black-and-white photographs, 2 color maps, 2 color plates on covers.


Notes on the Birds of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and Obed National Wild and Scenic River
Stephen J. Stedman
and
Barbara H. Stedman

The Stedmans' book is a landmark reference book on the present and past status of the bird populations in these two national preserves and should serve well into the future as a very important database that can be revisited to examine population changes there. I emphasize the words "reference book" because this book is not intended for light reading nor for the beginning birder. But for those serious about birding in either of these two parks, or serious about information on bird records for these two preserves, this book is a must. Make no mistake, this little (8.5 in. x 5.5 in) book with a Saw-whet Owl on the cover is dense with information.

This book really provides four types of information. While portions of the book are rather dry descriptions of trails or stream sections, the "species accounts" are both interesting to read and full of data. The 10 pages of introduction are devoted to background information on the two preserves — their history, geology, botany, and general characteristics. All of this information is, of course, oriented towards characterizing factors that have shaped the current and past ornithology of the parks. The second major section is a collection of gazetteers covering both the trails and river sections of the two parks. These rather tedious descriptions should prove most useful to those interested in exploring sections of the parks, and they are accompanied by labeled maps on the inside covers. The subsequent 60 pages or so are "species accounts" that are the "meat" of the book. They cover, one by one for each species recorded in the two parks, its abundance, its status (summer resident, transient, etc.), high counts, early and late records, specific records for rare species, and specific habitats and locations for finding the species. In addition to this compendium of basic facts, the Stedmans provide interesting tidbits about each species — from effects of historical habitat changes, to tips

on locating a species, to factors affecting its frequency in bird surveys. Finally, the last 45 pages or so consist of many appendices that are again dense with reference information, including a master checklist for both the Big South Fork and the Obed, and tables of extreme dates for migrants, high counts for all species, breeding bird survey data, etc.

For all its good qualities, the reader should be aware that this book will probably not satisfy all their needs for birding the Big South Fork or the Obed. The gazetteer is intended to be used in conjunction with more detailed maps, which can be obtained at the national park headquarters of either preserve. The maps provided on the inside covers provide little more than an overview of the layout of the parks and the location of major sections. The location of park headquarters, trail heads, stream put-ins, etc. are not provided. The book has other minor shortcomings as well. The authors occasionally state as fact matters that are not backed up by any specific information or references. One prime example is their appendix on the "Estimated Size of Breeding Populations of Birds of the Big South Fork," wherein the numbers seem to be based on the authors' intuition and experience, as no factual data for their basis is given. Furthermore, there are certain minor inconsistencies, such as labeling species as "rare" (defined as less than 2 records available) and then providing in the text from 3 to 7 specific accounts of the species, or labelling species "summer residents" that are more frequently migrating transients.

Despite these minor shortcomings, this book belongs on the shelf of any serious birder interested in the distribution of birds in Tennessee or Kentucky, or of anyone who plans to do any serious birding in either the Obed National Wild and Scenic River or the Big South Fork National Recreation Areas. Copies can be obtained for $15 (plus $2 postage and handling) by sending a check to the authors at 2675 Lakeland Drive, Cookeville, TN.

The Migrant 73 (2): 28-33, 2002.

FALL 2001 NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT

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One hundred sixty-two species were found on this year's fall North American Migration Count (NAMC) (Table 1). Seven counties participated on the traditional NAMC day, the third Saturday of September. One other county conducted their traditional fall count, but it was later in the month. Statistics from two counties (Knox and Roane) were only partial counts and not full county censuses. Some of the counts experienced windy conditions, but generally the weather was good.

Anderson County – The weather was very cool until late in the morning, with breezy winds all day. Anderson County species found nowhere else in the state were Sanderling, Lesser Scaup, and Worm-eating Warbler. Other sightings of interest were seven species of waders at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, and a couple of Wilson's Warblers. Participants: Ron Hoff (compiler: 282 Hackworth Ln., Clinton, TN 37716) and Dollyann Myers.

Blount County – The weather was clear and sunny with little or no wind. Species of interest were 2 Cooper's Hawks, a Wild Turkey, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Participants: Jean Alexander (compiler: 3908 Riverview Dr., Maryville, TN 37804), Mary Laura French, David Johnson, Tony Koella, Charlie Muise, Paul Super, and June Welch.

Davidson County – The weather was clear but breezy with winds of 10-15 mph. In spite of the windy conditions, birders were able to tally the state's highest total of species (117) and locate 11 species not found elsewhere in the state. These were Common Loon, Merlin, American Coot, Ring-billed Gull, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Cliff Swallow, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler, and Savannah, Swamp, and White-throated Sparrows. Other sightings of interest were 7 Philadelphia Vireos; 19 species of warblers, including 10 Nashville Warblers; and 3 Lincoln's Sparrows. Participants: Jan Alexander, Sandy Bivens, Susan and Trae Bradfield, Hazel Cassel, Phillip Casteel, Hazel Clayton, Richard Conners, Jay Desgrosellier, Jerry Drewry, Ed Gleaves, Mark Hackney, Daniel Jacobson, Linda Kelly, Cass Kennedy, Gail Lavely, Janeth McKendrick, Dick Newton, Elizabeth O'Conner, Robert Rich, Sarah Scott, Jan Shaw (compiler: 5019 Timberhill Dr., Nashville, TN 37211), Kathy Shaw, Chris Sloan, Joe Stone, Sabin Thompson, JoAnn and John Tomasso, and Mary Zimmerman.

Knox County – The only data from Knox County were from a yard count by Dan and Laurie Mooney. No weather data were reported. Despite only counting in their yard, the Mooneys were able to find 4 Red-headed Woodpeckers (not an easy

species to find in east Tennessee), Veery, Swainson's Thrush, 3 Blue-winged Warblers, and a Nashville Warbler.

Monroe County – No weather data were reported. Monroe County produced the state's only sightings for Whip-poor-will, Common Raven, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Black-throated Blue Warbler. A Wilson's Warbler was also found. David Trently was the only participant.

Putnam County – The weather conditions were reported as mostly clear, with some light winds of 0-10 mph. Putnam produced six species found nowhere else in the state. These were American Woodcock, Barn Owl, Common Nighthawk, Horned Lark, Northern Waterthrush, and Bobolink. The Warbling Vireos provided a new late fall date for the county. Five Red-breasted Nuthatches were found on the Cumberland Plateau, while the another was found on the Highland Rim. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Lincoln's Sparrow established new early fall dates for the county. The count of 59 Magnolia Warblers established a new high count for the county. The Blue Grosbeaks included a female feeding two fledged young that still had downy feathers in their plumage. The Bobolinks represented a new late fall date for the county, but it has been since superceded. Participants: Ivan L. Cordrey, Ginger K. Ensor, Susan H. Ford, Ken and Louann Gumm, Graham S. Kash, Kenneth L. Morgan, Michael P. O'Rourke, John C. Owens, Barbara H. and Stephen J. Stedman (compiler: 2675 Lakeland Dr., Cookeville, TN 38506), Winston A. Walden, and Carol Williams.

Roane County – The weather was clear and mild. Although this county was only censused in the later afternoon, it produced the state's only Green-winged Teal, American Golden Plover, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Sedge Wren. All of these species were found at Kingston Steam Plant. Participants: Ron Hoff (compiler: 282 Hackworth Ln., Clinton, TN 37716) and Dollyann Myers.

Shelby County – The weather was clear and mild, with some wind (5-15 mph). 16 species were found in Shelby County that were not found elsewhere in the state. These were Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Peregrine Falcon, Black-necked Stilt, Lesser Yellowlegs, Western Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Rufous Hummingbird, Willow and Great Crested Flycatchers, Loggerhead Shrike, Fish Crow, Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Yellow-breasted Chat. The Rufous Hummingbird was seen at the home of Anne Hooper in east Memphis. The Willow Flycatcher was seen at Shelby Forest. Shelby Farms was not covered this year, resulting in lower than usual numbers of blackbirds and meadowlarks. Participants: David Blaylock, Carolyn Bullock, Nancy and Van Harris, Anne Hooper, Bob Ilardi, Margaret Jefferson, Dianna Johnson, Charlotte Joshlin, O. Knox Martin, W. Robert Peeples (compiler: 8205 Meadow Glen Dr., Memphis, TN 38138), Dick Preston, and Virginia Reynolds.

Table 1. Results of the Fall 2001 North American Migration Count (NAMC) in Tennessee

Species	Anderson	Blount	Davidson	Knox	Monroe	Putnam	Roane	Shelby	Totals
Common Loon	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	34	-	-	2	-	-	36
Double-crested Cormorant	2	-	157	-	32	21	-	96	308
Great Blue Heron	10	4	48	1	2	12	4	13	94
Great Egret	1	-	2	-	-	-	4	94	101
Snowy Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	27
Little Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	21
Green Heron	2	-	1	-	-	5	-	3	11
Black-crowned Night-Heron	-	1	29	-	-	-	4	-	34
Black Vulture	-	9	237	-	-	4	-	3	253
Turkey Vulture	7	28	149	-	5	42	2	3	236
Canada Goose	25	126	306	23	-	178	63	20	741
Wood Duck	-	1	5	-	1	23	-	5	35
Mallard	60	6	161	-	-	2	31	25	285
Blue-winged Teal	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	9
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	8
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	9
Lesser Scaup	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Osprey	-	3	4	-	2	2	2	-	13
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	5
Cooper's Hawk	-	2	7	-	1	2	-	1	13
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	4	6	-	-	4	-	11	26
Broad-winged Hawk	-	16	-	-	-	65	-	-	81
Red-tailed Hawk	1	9	19	-	-	12	-	3	44
Buteo sp.	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
American Kestrel	2	2	25	-	-	14	-	1	34
Merlin	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Wild Turkey	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	5
Northern Bobwhite	-	1	8	-	-	-	-	1	10
American Coot	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
American Golden Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Semipalmated Plover	1	-	4	-	-	-	3	2	10
Killdeer	15	5	28	-	-	31	2	14	95
Black-necked Stilt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	16
Spotted Sandpiper	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	5
Sanderling	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Western Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Least Sandpiper	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	180	185
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	63	66
Stilt Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Common Snipe	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

Species	Anderson	Blount	Davidson	Knox	Monroe	Putnam	Roane	Shelby	Totals
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Rock Dove	35	110	124	-	-	92	30	45	436
Mourning Dove	38	126	134	36	11	259	26	14	644
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	-	3	-	-	3	-	17	25
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Eastern Screech Owl	-	-	2	-	7	7	-	-	16
Great Horned Owl	-	1	3	-	1	2	-	-	7
Barred Owl	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	1	5
Common Nighthawk	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Whip-poor-will	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Chimney Swift	19	35	414	21	25	40	-	58	612
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	7	12	5	10	3	38	-	30	105
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Belted Kingfisher	6	4	21	-	2	15	1	3	52
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	14	4	1	9	-	41	69
Red-bellied Woodpecker	9	7	71	-	3	53	-	59	202
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Downy Woodpecker	3	13	69	2	6	43	-	35	171
Hairy Woodpecker	-	-	11	-	2	11	-	7	31
Northern Flicker	1	3	37	1	-	25	-	3	70
Pileated Woodpecker	3	17	16	2	2	26	-	18	84
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	1	44	1	6	22	-	33	109
Acadian Flycatcher	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	44	45
Willow Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Empidonax sp.	2	-	5	-	-	2	1	2	12
Eastern Phoebe	5	2	26	-	1	30	-	4	68
Great Crested Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Eastern Kingbird	-	1	2	3	1	-	2	-	9
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
White-eyed Vireo	10	-	10	-	10	65	-	83	178
Yellow-throated Vireo	-	1	4	2	2	17	-	14	40
Blue-headed Vireo	-	-	1	-	1	5	-	-	7
Warbling Vireo	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	4
Philadelphia Vireo	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	6	13
Red-eyed Vireo	2	-	3	4	1	7	-	18	35
Blue Jay	30	70	326	34	15	228	-	22	725
American Crow	56	104	343	12	19	250	6	33	823
Fish Crow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Common Raven	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
Horned Lark	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Tree Swallow	-	1	57	-	1	3	-	-	62
N. Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	70	-	-	-	-	64	134
Cliff Swallow	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Barn Swallow	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	4
Carolina Chickadee	14	50	280	23	10	144	1	74	596

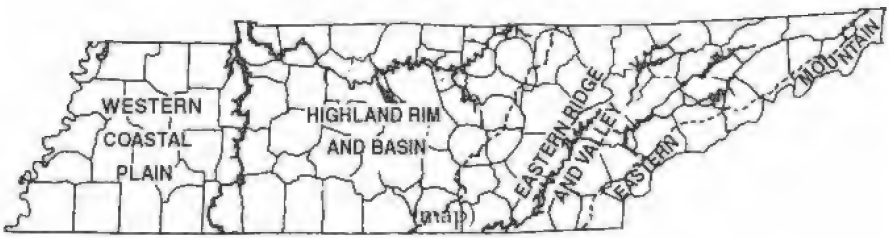
Species	Anderson	Blount	Davidson	Knox	Monroe	Putnam	Roane	Shelby	Totals
Eastern Tufted Titmouse	15	27	161	27	5	106	-	104	445
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	2	4	-	-	6	-	-	13
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	9	62	-	-	52	-	44	168
Brown-headed Nuthatch	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Carolina Wren	11	65	135	5	13	118	2	40	389
House Wren	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	5
Sedge Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	-	6
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	2	1	-	-	3	-	6	13
Eastern Bluebird	20	46	145	-	3	179	-	18	411
Veery	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	3
Gray-cheeked Thrush	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Swainson's Thrush	4	-	3	4	1	12	-	16	40
Wood Thrush	2	-	3	-	-	2	-	5	12
American Robin	-	84	117	6	10	61	1	15	294
Gray Catbird	12	5	30	-	6	20	-	6	79
Northern Mockingbird	9	21	66	-	-	34	-	2	132
Brown Thrasher	1	1	19	6	4	23	-	1	55
European Starling	20	191	1601	3	1	2510	20	66	4412
Cedar Waxwing	-	-	46	-	-	2	-	-	48
Blue-winged Warbler	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	4	8
Golden-winged Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Tennessee Warbler	5	-	44	-	2	17	-	25	93
Nashville Warbler	-	-	10	1	-	-	-	4	15
Northern Parula	3	-	7	-	-	3	-	56	69
Yellow Warbler	-	5	1	-	1	1	2	-	10
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	3	2	4	6	16	-	11	45
Magnolia Warbler	11	-	69	3	4	59	-	16	162
Black-throated Blue Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	6	28	-	-	-	-	-	34
Black-throated Green Warbler	1	2	50	-	2	11	-	10	76
Blackburnian Warbler	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	3	7
Yellow-throated Warbler	-	-	2	-	-	6	-	-	8
Pine Warbler	-	1	4	-	-	14	-	-	19
Prairie Warbler	1	-	2	-	-	5	-	1	9
Palm Warbler	-	1	16	-	1	4	8	-	30
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	-	9	-	1	4	-	-	15
Blackpoll Warbler	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cerulean Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Black-and-white Warbler	-	-	12	2	3	29	-	8	54
American Redstart	7	2	19	3	1	25	-	11	68
Worm-eating Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ovenbird	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	4
Northern Waterthrush	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

Species	Anderson	Blount	Davidson	Knox	Monroe	Putnam	Roane	Shelby	Totals
Louisiana Waterthrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Kentucky Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3
Common Yellowthroat	2	4	40	-	6	21	2	2	77
Hooded Warbler	4	7	-	3	1	7	-	2	24
Wilson's Warbler	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	6
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Summer Tanager	-	-	16	1	-	33	1	22	73
Scarlet Tanager	4	4	14	2	4	7	-	1	36
Eastern Towhee	2	1	19	1	5	34	-	1	63
Chipping Sparrow	2	-	41	-	-	40	-	3	86
Field Sparrow	-	-	50	-	-	15	-	-	65
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Song Sparrow	3	15	1	-	1	35	5	-	60
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	4
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dark-eyed Junco	-	-	6	-	16	-	-	-	22
Northern Cardinal	27	24	162	14	12	182	-	42	463
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	1	52	-	4	2	-	6	65
Blue Grosbeak	-	-	3	-	-	5	-	-	8
Indigo Bunting	-	58	128	6	29	17	-	30	268
Bobolink	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	48	-	4	33	48	4	137
Eastern Meadowlark	3	2	40	-	-	13	2	1	61
Common Grackle	-	50	1412	15	-	102	-	168	1747
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	2	95	-	-	-	-	37	134
House Finch	20	14	37	8	-	33	-	1	113
American Goldfinch	9	156	147	7	9	138	2	10	478
House Sparrow	1	6	13	-	-	50	-	10	80
Total individuals	593	1596	8380	305	338	5875	293	2192	19572
Total species	70	68	117	38	64	102	34	105	162
Date of count	**9/15**	**9/15**	**9/29**	**9/15**	**9/15**	**9/15**	**9/15**	**9/15**	**Totals**
Observers	2	7	29	2	1	13	2	13	69
Feeder observers	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	5	9
Feeder hours	-	2.58	-	5	-	-	-	5	12.58
Parties	1	3		1	1	5	1	4	16
Party hours	7.5	19.1		5	7	43	3.17	21	105.77
Hours by car	5.5	12.35	19	-	2.75	32	0.5	3.5	75.6
Miles by car	98	90.15	240	-	51	326	5	66	876.15
Hours by foot	2	6.15	47	-	4.25	10	2.67	17.5	89.57
Miles by foot	2	10	24.5	-	2.25	9	2	10	59.75
Hours owling	-	0.15	1.5	-	-	2.25	-	-	3.9
Miles owling	-	-	20	-	-	39	-	-	59
Temp. (deg. F)	52-72	52-75	45-75	-	-	48-82	76-72	60-79	45-82
Weather conditions	clr/brzy	clr/sun	clr/brzy	-	-	clr/ltwind	clear	clr/wind	
Count times	0715-1445	-	0500-1930	-	0645-1350	0600-1850	1540-1850	0630-1830	
NAMC count	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	

The Migrant 73 (2): 34-40, 2002.

THE WINTER SEASON

RICHARD L. KNIGHT, Editor



1 DECEMBER 2001 - 28 FEBRUARY 2002

Generally mild temperatures predominated statewide this winter. Precipitation varied from below normal in the eastern part of the state to near normal in the west. Snow was scarce away from the higher mountains.

Notable lingering species this winter included a Tennessee Warbler and an Indigo Bunting in Nashville, plus three Ospreys split between two regions. Also of interest is the increasing number of winter season Palm Warblers, especially in the eastern regions. Rufous Hummingbirds were found in all regions and a Black-chinned Hummingbird was banded in Cleveland. Another point in the expansion of the Brown-headed Nuthatch was discovered, this time in Cookeville. Ross's Geese appeared in all but the mountain region. Although annual in recent years, readers are reminded that this small white goose was first found in Tennessee in 1986. Merlins were reported from three regions. The synchronous arrival of Tree Swallows was noted in three regions between 21-24 February, plus an anomalous pair in mid January. Rarities included Trumpeter Swan and Prairie Falcon in the far western edge of the state and Harris's Sparrow in the southeast.

Standard Abbreviations

ad - adult	L - Lake
CBC - Christmas Bird Count	m - male
Co - County	max - maximum count
Cr - Creek	m.ob. - many observers
ers - earliest reported sighting	Pt - Point
et al. - and others	R - River
f - female	SP - State Park
fide - reported by	WMA - Wildlife Management Area
im - immature	

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION — This winter was relatively mild and about normal in rainfall. There was one snowfall, in early February, with as much

as five inches accumulated locally. Outstanding finds included a Prairie Falcon, a Eurasian Wigeon, and a Eurasian Green-winged Teal. The Rufous Hummingbird at Memphis, present since August, remained all season. Geese were well represented, with several Ross's reported plus large numbers of Snow and Greater White-fronted.

The story of the season, however, was the appearance of three neck-banded Trumpeter Swans at Lauderdale WMA near Halls. They were descended from birds released in Wisconsin. The two adults and one immature were the first live Trumpeters seen in the wild in Tennessee since Audubon's visit in 1820. Sadly, the immature was killed by a poacher, while one of the adults was injured but apparently recovered.

Loon - Merganser: **Red-throated Loon:** 3 Feb (1) Paris Landing SP (JRW et al.); 23 Feb (1) Pace Pt. (CAS, JSD). **Pacific Loon:** 3 / 23 Feb (2 / 1) Paris Landing SP (JRW et al.); 13 Feb (1) Pace Pt. (DMa, MCT). **American White Pelican:** 2 Dec - 23 Feb (1 - 44) Reelfoot L (m.ob.); 26 Jan (5) Pace Pt. (CAS, JSD, Brainerd Palmer-Ball). **Greater White-fronted Goose:** reported from Henry, Lake, & Lauderdale Cos; 15 Dec (1927) Reelfoot CBC, max. **Snow Goose:** 12 Jan / 16 Feb (10,000) Reelfoot L (MAG, JRW / VBR), max. **Ross's Goose:** 15 Dec / 23 Feb (3) Reelfoot L (MAG, JRW / JSD, CAS); 5 / 7 Jan (1) Lauderdale WMA (JRW, Jesse Livingston); 12 Jan (2) Ayers, Dyer Co (MAG, JRW); 2 Feb thru period (1-3) Shelby Farms (WRP, James Waldron, VBR et al.). **Mute Swan:** 22 Dec (1) Memphis CBC. **TRUMPETER SWAN:** 1 - 12 Jan (2 ad, 1 im), 13 - 21 Jan (2 ad) Lauderdale WMA (JRW, m.ob.). **Eurasian Wigeon:** 18 - 22 Feb (1 m) Britton Ford (MCT, ARH), 5th record for West Tenn, photos submitted. **Eurasian (Common) Green-winged Teal:** 2 - 4 Dec (1 m) Lauderdale WMA (JRW / MCT, DMa). **Greater Scaup:** 15 Dec / 12 Jan (2 / 4) Reelfoot L (MAG, JRW); 5 Jan (1 f) Lauderdale WMA (JRW); 2 Feb (2) Gibson Co (MAG); 12 Feb (1 m) Shelby Farms (WRP, VBR, Gaynell Perry). **Surf Scoter:** 9 Feb (1) Britton Ford (MAG, MCT, JRW). **White-winged Scoter:** 20 Jan (1) Port Road Overlook, Henry Co (MCT). **Long-tailed Duck:** 31 Dec (1) Dyer Co (JRW). **Common Merganser:** 11 - 19 Jan / 13 Feb (10 - 12) Pace Pt. (MCT, DMa, NTOS); 2 Feb (1) Gibson Co (MAG). **Red-breasted Merganser:** 13 Feb (300) Pace Pt. (MCT, DMa).

Osprey - Crane: **Osprey:** 22 Dec (1) Shelby Farms (Anne Hooper, Barbara Wilson). **Red-tailed (Harlan's) Hawk:** 12 Jan (1) EARTH Complex, Shelby Co (MGW, Knox Martin); 2 Feb (1) Gibson Co (MAG). **Rough-legged Hawk:** 5 / 9 Dec (1 dark morph) Lake Co (MAG, NaM); 29 Dec (1 dark morph) Jackson CBC (MAG, Clay Gascoigne). **Golden Eagle:** Jan - Feb (1 ad, 1 im) Pace Pt. (MCT, CAS, JSD). **Merlin:** 5 Dec (1) Lake Co (NaM); 5 Jan (2) Savannah CBC. **Peregrine Falcon:** 19 Jan (1) Memphis (MGW); 13 Feb (1) Paris Landing SP (MCT, DMa); 21 - 22 Feb (1) Britton Ford (MCT, ARH). **PRAIRIE FALCON:** 4 Dec - 26 Jan (1 im) Lake Co (David Roemer, MAG, CAS, m.ob.). **Sora:** 9 Feb (1) Reelfoot L (MAG, MCT, JRW). **Sandhill Crane:** 2 Dec (7) Shelby Farms (MGW); 26 Jan (12) Pace Pt. (CAS, JSD, Brainerd Palmer-Ball); 3 Feb (29) Britton Ford (JRW et al.).

Yellowlegs - Hummingbird: **Greater Yellowlegs:** 15 Dec (1) Lake Co (CAS, Melinda Welton); 9 Feb (1) Union City, Obion Co (MAG, MCT, JRW). **Lesser Yellowlegs:** 15 Dec (6) Lake Co (CAS, Melinda Welton). **Laughing Gull:** 8 Feb (1 im) Pickwick SP (JRW, MCT). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 31 Dec (1) Lake Co (JRW); 3 / 9 Feb (1 / 2) Paris Landing SP (JRW, MAG, MCT et al.); 9 Feb (1 im) Pickwick SP (JRW, m.ob.). **Forster's Tern:** 9 Feb (2) Lick Cr. WMA, Benton Co (MAG, MCT, JRW); 10 Feb (2) Pickwick SP (JRW). **Eurasian Collared-Dove:** reported from Crockett, Hardin, Lake, Madison, Obion, & Shelby Cos. **Barn Owl:** 12 Jan - 9 Feb (1-2) Tiptonville, Lake Co (MAG, MCT, NaM, JRW); 20 Jan (1) Wolf River WMA (Susan McWhirter, MGW). **Short-eared Owl:** reported from Hardin & Lake Cos. **Rufous Hummingbird:** present entire period (1 ad. m) Memphis (Anne Hooper), photos. ***Selasphorus* sp.:** 1 Jan (1) Memphis (WRP), present since fall (Rita Cox).

Crow - Warbler: **American Crow:** 29 Dec (10,375) Jackson CBC, max. **Fish Crow:** 29 Dec (51) Jackson CBC; 5 Jan (49) Lauderdale WMA (JRW). **Purple Martin:** 26 Feb (2) Reelfoot L (NaM), ers. **Tree Swallow:** 22 Feb (1) Britton Ford (ARH), ers; 23 Feb (2) Reelfoot L (CAS, JSD). **Brown-headed Nuthatch:** 5 Jan (4) Savannah CBC. **House Wren:** 5 Jan (1) Savannah CBC; 12 Feb (1) Shelby Farms (WRP). **American Pipit:** 12 Jan (200+) Lauderdale Co (MAG, JRW), max. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** 12 Dec (1) Memphis (VBR); 14 - 15 Dec (1) Lake Co (MAG, DMa, MCT); 22 Dec (1) Memphis CBC; 12 Jan thru period (1 - 3) Wolf R., Shelby Co (WRP). **Palm Warbler:** 15 Dec (3) Lake Co (MAG, JRW); 5 Jan (1) Savannah CBC.

Sparrow - Siskin: **American Tree Sparrow:** 15 Dec (6) Reelfoot CBC. **Chipping Sparrow:** 15 Dec (1) Reelfoot CBC. **LeConte's Sparrow:** 5 Jan (3) Savannah CBC; 9 / 18 Feb (1) Britton Ford (MAG, MCT, JRW). **Lincoln's Sparrow:** 22 Dec (1) Memphis CBC (Dick Preston). **Lapland Longspur:** 15 Dec (745) Reelfoot CBC; 29 Dec (27) Jackson CBC; 5 Jan (254) Savannah CBC. **Smith's Longspur:** 14 - 15 Dec (1) Bessie, Lake Co (MCT, MAG, JRW). **Rusty Blackbird:** 29 Dec (1000) Jackson CBC. **Brewer's Blackbird:** 15 Dec (3) Reelfoot CBC; 29 Dec (1500) Jackson CBC; 5 Jan (30) Savannah CBC & (1) Fayette Co CBC; 2 Feb (3) Mt. Orange, Gibson Co (MAG). **Purple Finch:** 22 Dec (4) Memphis CBC; 25 Dec / 3 Feb (4) Shelby Co (Gaynell Perry); 28 Dec / 9 Feb (26 / 75) Henry Co (MCT, MAG, JRW); 5 Jan (39) Savannah CBC & (17) Fayette Co CBC; 12 Jan (1) Lake Co (MAG, JRW); 30 Jan (1) Shelby Co (WRP). **Pine Siskin:** 5 Jan (5) Savannah CBC; 19 Jan (1) Reelfoot L (NaM); 3 Feb (2) Millington, Shelby Co (Van Harris); 9 Feb (50) Henry Co (MAG, MCT, JRW); 15 Feb thru period (1 - 6) Germantown, Shelby Co (WRP).

Locations: Britton Ford - in Henry Co; Lauderdale WMA - in Lauderdale Co; Pace Pt. - in Henry Co; Paris Landing SP - in Henry Co; Pickwick SP - in Hardin Co; Reelfoot L - in Lake & Obion Cos; Savannah - in Hardin Co; Shelby Farms - in Shelby Co.

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HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION — In the middle Tennessee area December and January were unseasonably mild, averaging about five degrees above their mean temperatures. However, by February temperatures had returned to near normal. Not surprisingly, such warm winter weather produced little snow, but precipitation was close to normal for the first two months of the quarter. February was drier than usual with only half its typical rainfall. Highlights from this period were Surf Scoters at Center Hill Lake, a Ross's Goose and Tennessee Warbler in Nashville, as well as Brown-headed Nuthatches in Cookeville.

Grebe - Owl: **Horned Grebe:** 1 Dec (two flocks totaling 450) Dale Hollow L., Clay Co (SJS, Winston Walden); 24 Feb (154) Center Hill L. (SJS). **American White Pelican:** 15 Jan (31) Duck R. Unit (GBC). **Great Egret:** 7 Jan (14+) Duck R. Unit (GBC). **Black Vulture:** 19 Jan (300) roost at City L., Putnam Co (SJS). **Greater White-fronted Goose:** 15 Jan (80+) Duck R. Unit (GBC). **Snow Goose:** 15 Jan (90+) Duck R. Unit (GBC); 31 Jan - 4 Feb (1) Cane Cr. Park, Putnam Co (SJS). **Ross's Goose:** 3 Feb (1) Shelby Park, Davidson Co (PDC, photo CAS). **Redhead:** 11 Dec (22) Center Hill L (SJS). **Surf Scoter:** 7 Dec (1 f) / 11 Dec (13 = 6 ad. m., 2 im. m., 5 f) Center Hill L (SJS). **Red-breasted Merganser:** 11 Dec (36) Center Hill L (SJS). **Bald Eagle:** 2 Jan (1 ad) Woods Reservoir, Franklin Co (Jerry Ingles). **Sandhill Crane:** notable northward flight (2,000+) over Putnam, Clay, & DeKalb Cos on 25 - 27 Jan (m.ob. fide SJS); 12 Feb (3265) Pickett Co (Robbie Hassler). **American Woodcock:** 15 Dec (7) Bell's Bend (PDC, GBC). **Barn Owl:** 15 Dec (1) Putnam Co (Daniel Combs). **Northern Saw-whet Owl:** 8 Feb - 29 Mar (1) Nashville (Margaret L. Mann).

Lark - Pipit: **Horned Lark:** 15 Dec (14) Bell's Bend (PDC, GBC); 18 Jan (80+) Fort Campbell, Montgomery Co (Daniel Moss). **Tree Swallow:** 14 Jan (2) Monsanto Ponds, Maury Co (Jennifer & Richard Cardenas); 21 Feb (1) Putnam Co (SJS), new early record for Co. **BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH:** 15 Dec - 20 Jan (2 - 5) Cookeville Golf Course, Putnam Co (Winston Walden, Graham Kash, Michael O'Rourke / SJS), it turned out that there had been sightings near this site as long ago as Feb 1999 (Timothy Riddle fide SJS), first Co records. **Sedge Wren:** 5 Dec (1) Fort Campbell, Montgomery Co (Daniel Moss). **American Pipit:** 1 Dec (20+) Old Hickory L., Davidson Co (JSD, NTOS).

Warbler - Siskin: **Tennessee Warbler:** 28 Jan (1, video taken) Davidson Co (David & Carrie Dortch). **Indigo Bunting:** 27 Dec (1 f) Davidson Co (CAS), at feeder. **American Tree Sparrow:** 15 Dec (1) Davidson Co (Francis Fekel). **Lapland Longspur:** 15 Dec (2) Bell's Bend (PDC). **Brewer's Blackbird:** 18 Feb (20) Old Mill Rd., Putnam Co (SJS). **Purple Finch:** 6 Dec (9+) Bell's Bend (GBC, PDC), max. **Pine Siskin:** 15 Dec (20) Cheatham Co (JSD), max.

Locations: Bell's Bend - in Davidson Co; Center Hill L. - in DeKalb Co; Duck R. Unit - unit of Tennessee NWR in Humphreys Co.

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CUMBERLAND PLATEAU / RIDGE & VALLEY REGION — Mild and dry adequately describe the weather pattern for this winter. December and January were warmer than usual, while February had near normal temperatures. Precipitation was slightly below average in the first two months, but February was quite dry. Little snow fell in the region.

Overall, waterfowl numbers remained low from the autumn. Substantial numbers of ducks apparently stayed north in response to the mild conditions. However, Tundra Swan, Ross's Goose and Black Scoter were nice finds. Rough-legged Hawks again wintered in the Sequatchie Valley portion of Bledsoe County. Three Saw-whet Owls were found in the northern Cumberlands. A few half-hardy species lingered into the season or over-wintered. Although Red-breasted Nuthatches were fairly common, the major flight of boreal finches hinted at in the fall did not appear. A Black-chinned Hummingbird and a Harris's Sparrow (later joined by a second) in the southeast attracted much attention. A late report of a Snowy Owl was nonetheless convincing.

Loon - Merganser: **Common Loon:** 8 Dec (42) Boone L (RLK); 11 Dec (40) Douglas L (RLK); max. **Horned Grebe:** 11 Dec (163 / 162) Douglas L / Cherokee L (RLK), max. **Great Egret:** 1 Jan (1) Hiwassee CBC (Bonnie Johnson). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 11 Dec (12 / 6) Douglas Dam / Cherokee Dam (RLK); 22 Dec (1) Chattanooga CBC (Hayden Wilson); 9 Jan (8) Kingsport (RLK). **Tundra Swan:** 1 Jan (1) Hiwassee CBC (KAC). **Greater White-fronted Goose:** 2 Feb (2) Hiwassee Refuge (Jimmy Wilkerson). **Snow Goose:** 14 / 24 Dec (1) Cove Lake SP (NeM). **Ross's Goose:** 6 Feb (1) Cove Lake SP (NeM). **Gadwall:** 9 Jan (254) Kingsport (RLK), max. **Redhead:** 8 Dec (82) Cove Lake SP (NeM); 10 Dec (301) Chickamauga L, Hamilton Co (KAC); 11 Dec (400) Cherokee L (RLK); notable fallout. **Black Scoter:** 11 Dec (5 f) Cherokee L (RLK). **Hooded Merganser:** 5 Jan (225) Kingston Steam Plant, Roane Co (NeM), max. **Red-breasted Merganser:** 8 Dec (49) Boone L (RLK); 8 Dec (89) Cove Lake SP (NeM), max.

Osprey - Crane: **Osprey:** 23 Dec (1) Nolichuckey R., Greene Co (DHM); 1 Feb (1) Eagle Bend, Anderson Co (NeM). **Bald Eagle:** 9 - 12 Jan (1 ad) Cove Lake SP (NeM). **Red-tailed Hawk:** 2 / 29 Dec (1 dark morph) Greene / Washington Cos. (DHM). **Rough-legged Hawk:** 12 / 20 Jan (1 dark morph & 1 light morph) Ninemile Crossroad area, Bledsoe Co (Ron Hoff, Dollyann Myers / Roi & Debbie Shannon), only regular wintering site in East Tenn. **Golden Eagle:** 23 Feb (1 ad) Meigs Co (RJH, DRJ). **Merlin:** singles on the Chattanooga, Hiwassee, & Nickajack CBCs; 20 Feb (1) Booker T. Washington SP, Hamilton Co (CM). **Peregrine Falcon:** thru season (2 ad) performing breeding behavior at Falling Water Falls & hunting at Chickamauga Dam, both in Hamilton Co (Harold Sharpe, KAC et al.). **Sandhill Crane:** 21 Dec (2) Boone L (Larry McDaniel), well east of usual areas; 1 Jan (11,600+) Hiwassee CBC, max.

Sandpiper - Owl: **Least Sandpiper:** 1 Jan (3) Hiwassee CBC. **Dunlin:** 11 Dec (94) Douglas L (RLK); 1 Jan (9) Hiwassee CBC. **American Woodcock:** 19 Jan (1) Campbell Co (NeM); 12 - 17 Feb (2 - 5) Greeneville (DHM). **Bonaparte's Gull:** 11 Dec (900+)

Douglas L (RLK), max. **BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD:** 8 Dec (1 im. f. banded) Cleveland (Bob & Martha Sargent). **Rufous Hummingbird:** 12 Jan (3 singles banded) Sevierville, Sevier Co / Maryville, Blount Co / Midtown, Roane Co (CAS, Portia Macmillan); 5 Feb (2 banded) Hamilton Co (Bob & Martha Sargent); 22 Feb (1 banded) Kingsport (Fred Moore). **SNOWY OWL:** 11 Dec (1) Cherokee L (David Bishop). **Northern Saw-whet Owl:** 27 Jan / 9 Feb / 1 Mar (1 each date) separate sites in the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area, Pickett & Scott Cos (SJS).

Vireo - Siskin: **Blue-headed Vireo:** 1 Feb (1) Knoxville (Chris Welsh). **Common Raven:** 22 Dec / 13 Jan (1 / 3) Greeneville (DHM / RLK). **Tree Swallow:** 24 Feb (50) Kyker Bottoms, Blount Co (David Trently, ARH) & (1) Greene Co (DHM), ers. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** widespread & fairly numerous. **Sedge Wren:** 29 Nov (1) Hamilton Co (Jonnie Sue Lyons). **Pine Warbler:** 24 Feb (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Palm Warbler:** 2 Dec / 3 Feb (1 / 2) Greene Co (DHM); 2 Jan (1) Eagle Bend, Anderson Co (NeM); 1 Feb (1) Kingsport (Mary J. Erwin); 16 Feb (1) Loudon Co (David Trently); 17 Feb (1) Kingston Steam Plant, Roane Co (Dean Edwards); plus a few in the Chattanooga area (fide KAC). **Chipping Sparrow:** 8 Jan (8) Campbell Co (NeM); 14 Jan / 11 Feb (1 - 14) Greene Co (DHM). **HARRIS'S SPARROW:** 5 Jan - 23 Feb (1 - 2) near Hiwassee Refuge (RJH, DRJ, m.ob.), first Chattanooga area record. **Brewer's Blackbird:** 23 Feb (1) Sequatchie Co (RJH, DRJ). **Purple Finch:** 22 Feb (38) Campbell Co (NeM), max at feeder; good numbers in Chattanooga area but scarce in Tri-cities area. **Pine Siskin:** small numbers scattered irregularly throughout region.

Locations: Boone L - in Washington & Sullivan Cos; Cherokee L - in Jefferson, Grainger, & Hamblen Cos; Cove Lake SP - in Campbell Co; Douglas L - mainly in Jefferson Co; Hiwassee Refuge - in Meigs Co; Kingsport - in Sullivan Co.

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION — It was a very dry winter with precipitation well below normal. Temperatures were above normal. There was no heavy snowfall in lowland areas. Irruptive winter finches were present, but in small numbers and scattered locations. Red-breasted Nuthatches were widespread in good numbers, especially during the CBC season.

Grebe - Woodpecker: **Horned Grebe:** 9 Dec - 10 Jan (18 - 22) Watauga L (RLK). **Eared Grebe:** 2 - 30 Dec (1 - 3) S. Holston L (RLK et al.). **Snow Goose (blue morph):** 30 Dec (1) S. Holston L during Bristol CBC (JWC et al.). **Wood Duck:** thru period (10) Erwin, Unicoi Co (BKS). **Gadwall:** 30 Dec (92) Bristol CBC, record high. **Northern Pintail:** 1 Jan (1) Wilbur L (BKS, HPL). **Long-tailed Duck:** 15 Dec (1 m) Watauga L during Elizabethton CBC (RLK, Gilbert Derouen). **Bufflehead:** 9 Dec (234) Wilbur L & Watauga L (RLK), max; 30 Dec (229) Bristol CBC. **Common Goldeneye:** 25 - 27 Jan (1) Middlebrook L, Sullivan Co (JWC et al.). **Hooded Merganser:** 9 Dec (48) Watauga L (RLK); 30 Dec (303) Bristol CBC, record high. **Common Merganser:** 10 Jan (1 m) Watauga L (RLK). **Bald Eagle:** 1 / 18 Jan (1) Wilbur L (BKS, HPL / DAH);

26 Feb (1 im) Chota, Monroe Co (Wes James). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** 30 Dec (4) Cades Cove CBC, max. **Merlin:** 30 Dec (1) S. Holston L during Bristol CBC (RLK, Glen Eller). **American Woodcock:** 23 Feb (3) Shady Valley (Allan Trently, DAH et al.). **Sandhill Crane:** 14 Dec (1) Townsend, Blount Co (CM). **Northern Saw-whet Owl:** 2 Dec (1 heard) Roan Mtn (ARH, James Brooks). **Rufous Hummingbird:** 4 - 29 Dec (1 ad. m) Flag Pond, Unicoi Co (Mildred Byrd, RLK, HPL, BKS, m.ob.); 22 Feb (1 im. m) Elizabethton (Carroll Mottern, banded by Fred Moore, m.ob.); both had been present since fall. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** 15 Dec thru late Jan (5) Carden's Bluff, Carter Co (Gary Wallace, Glen Eller, BKS, HPL); 30 Dec (1) Bristol CBC (JWC, Andy Jones); 30 Dec (1) Cades Cove CBC.

Vireo - Grosbeak: **White-eyed Vireo:** 15 Dec (1) Elizabethton CBC. **Common Raven:** 6 Dec (12) Roan Mtn (HPL, Anthony Whitted), max; several scattered lowland records in eastern Sullivan Co. **Black-capped Chickadee:** 29 Dec (48) GSMNP CBC; 29 Jan (25) GSMNP (CM), in one flock. **Brown Creeper:** 29 / 30 Dec (25 / 20) GSMNP CBC / Cades Cove CBC, max. **Hermit Thrush:** 30 Dec (24) Cades Cove CBC, max. **Pine Warbler:** 15 Dec (1) Elizabethton CBC. **Palm Warbler:** 15 Dec (1) Elizabethton CBC; 30 Dec (1) Cades Cove CBC. **White-crowned Sparrow:** 30 Dec (148) Bristol CBC, max. **Rusty Blackbird:** 23 Feb (3) Shady Valley (DAH). **Purple Finch:** 29 Dec (13) GSMNP CBC, max; small numbers scattered other locations. **Red Crossbill:** 6 Dec (4) Roan Mtn (HPL, Anthony Whitted); 29 Dec (52) GSMNP CBC, max; 30 Dec (16) Cades Cove CBC. **Pine Siskin:** 29 Dec (462) GSMNP CBC, max; widely scattered in small numbers. **Evening Grosbeak:** 16 Dec (12) Roan Mtn CBC, only report.

Locations: Cades Cove - in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; Elizabethton - in Carter Co; GSMNP - Great Smoky Mountains National Park; Roan Mtn - in Carter Co; Shady Valley - in Johnson Co; S. Holston L - in Sullivan Co; Watauga L - in Carter & Johnson Cos; Wilbur L - in Carter Co.

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